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A NEW HERESY,

ENTITLED

"THE MORMONITES,"

AND BY THEMSELVES,

"THE LATTER DAY SAINTS,"

HAS LATELY APPEARED.

The following is believed to be a True Account of its Origin.

"THEY pretend that they are in possession of a book, which they say was dug out of the earth, where it had lain for many hundreds of years: this book was written upon plates of gold, in an unknown language, which the man who discovered it was enabled to translate by means of a certain stone. They call this book the 'Book of Mormon,' or the 'Golden Bible;' and they tell you it was hidden in the earth by God himself, and the place of its concealment was revealed by an angel. Now God has mercifully allowed the falsehood of this statement to be *proved*. The wife of the very man who wrote the Book of Mormon is now living in Monson, Massachusetts, America, and she has borne witness that the whole scheme is a most infamous deception. The Book of Mormon, which these people pretend was written by God himself, was produced in the following manner.

"About the year 1812, there lived at New Salem, Ashtabula County, Ohio, in America, a Minister of the Gospel, whose name was the Rev. Solomon Spaulding, who, from ill health, had been obliged to give up all active duties. Near his residence were a great many mounds and fortifications, and many relics and implements were discovered there, which had evidently belonged to some race of men then extinct. Mr. Spaulding, by way of employing his time, and merely for the amusement of himself and his neighbours, undertook to write an imaginary history of this ancient people; and because he wished to write it in the most ancient language, he copied, as nearly as he could, the language of the Bible. He called his work the 'Manuscript Found;' and pretended that it was written by one of the *lost nation*, and *buried in the earth*. This book was read to his brother, and to many of his neighbours, who were much amused by it.

"Soon after this, Mr. Solomon Spaulding removed from Salem to Pittsburg, Pa., where he became acquainted with Mr. Patterson, the editor of a newspaper. To this gentleman the work was lent for a considerable time, and he wished to print it, but Mr. Spaulding

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would not allow him. The work was well known to all the people who worked in the printing-office of Mr. Patterson; and among these was *a man by the name of Sidney Rigdon, who was afterwards connected with the first beginning of the Mormonites.*

"In 1816, Mr. Spaulding died at Amity, Washington County, and the Manuscript work was left to his widow. Some time after the publication of the 'Book of Mormon,' when the delusion began to spread, a preacher belonging to this new sect went to New Salem, and held a meeting, during which many passages were read from the 'Book of Mormon.' All the older inhabitants were surprised, for they immediately knew that what they heard, was part of the very *Tale* which they had heard read so often by their old friend, Mr. Solomon Spaulding. His brother, Mr. John Spaulding, an eminently pious man, was present, and *knew perfectly* the work of his brother. He was amazed and afflicted that it should have been turned to so wicked a purpose. He burst into tears, and, rising at once, expressed to the meeting his sorrow, that the writing of his sainted brother should have been used for so vile and shocking a purpose. Great excitement arose among the people at New Salem, and Dr. Philastus Hurlbut, with other respectable people, was sent to the widow of Mr. Solomon Spaulding, to compare the 'Book of Mormon' with his work. He did so, and immediately found that the 'Book of Mormon,' *instead of being a revelation from God*, was nothing more or less than *Mr. Solomon Spaulding's Tale*, with a passage from Isaiah put in in one place, a passage from the Revelation in another, a little of our Lord's Sermon on the Mount in another, with a sprinkling here and there of doctrines and precepts, calculated to support the deep deception and wickedness of the new sect.

"Such is the origin of the Book of Mormon,* as given by the wife of the very man who wrote it. Since his death, she has married a second husband, named Davidson. She now resides at Monson, Massachusetts, is a woman of irreproachable character, and an humble Christian; and A. Ely, D.D., Pastor of the Congregational Church in Monson, and D. R. Austin, Principal of Monson Academy, both men of eminent piety and great learning, have borne witness that her testimony is *worthy of full confidence.*" †

* N.B.—Mr Spaulding wrote his book (which is the same, with a few exceptions, as the Book of Mormon), at least fourteen years before it is said to have been found by the Mormonites.

† Any one wishing for further information, is referred to the *Inquirer*, vol. iii. Nos. 22 and 23, and the *Christian Witness*, No. 1, vol. v.

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